

In the Claims

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A lubricating device, comprising:

first and second gear stages mounted next to one another and dynamically connected to one another;

a lubricant circuit having at least one filter therein, having a lubricant supply for providing lubricant to said first gear stage, having a lubricant outlet for removing lubricant from said second gear stage, and circulating lubricant drawn from said lubricant outlet to said filter for cleaning and then to said lubricant supply; and

an immersion bath receiving individually and at least partially each of said gear stages for said gear stages to pass through said immersion bath for splash lubrication of said gear stages, said immersion bath having a lubricant reserve and a subdivision separating said immersion bath into first and second bath areas for said first and second gear stages, respectively, said subdivision having a configuration and said lubricant reserve having an amount such that lubricant overflows said subdivision to be conveyed from said first bath area to said second bath area, said first bath area having said lubricant supply, said second bath area having said lubricant outlet.

12. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 11 wherein

said first and second gear stages are parts of a wind power station.

13. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 11 wherein  
said gear stage comprises a planet gear; and  
said second gear stage comprises a spur gear.

14. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 11 wherein  
said lubricant outlet comprises a suction device;  
said lubricant supply comprises an injection device; and  
said first and second gear stages are mounted in a gear housing with said injection device  
and said suction device being located diagonally opposite one another in an upper area and a  
lower area, respectively, of said housing.

15. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 14 wherein  
said lubricant circuit comprises a motor pump unit conveying lubricant through said  
injection device, said suction device and said filter.

16. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 15 wherein  
said filter is mounted between said motor pump unit and said gear housing in said  
lubricant circuit.

17. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 11 wherein  
said filter comprises a fine filter element safeguarded by a bypass and a coarse filter  
element connected in series to said fine filter element downstream in a direction of fluid flow  
through said filter.

18. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 17 where  
said coarse filter has a filter fineness approximately five to ten times greater than a filter  
fineness of said fine filter element.

19. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 11 wherein said filter comprises:  
a filter housing having a longitudinal axis, having a housing wall coaxial to said  
longitudinal axis, and having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet defining a flow direction therein, said  
fluid inlet extending laterally through said housing wall;  
a first filter element within said filter housing extending along said longitudinal axis and  
having a first length essentially along an entire length of said filter housing;  
a bypass device within said filter housing openable to allow flow in said flow direction  
without filtration through said first filter element; and  
a second filter element within said filter housing and said first filter element downstream  
of said first filter element in said flow direction having a second length not greater than one-half  
of said first length, said second filter element having a top end cap lying essentially in one plane  
extending transversely to said longitudinal axis with a top end of said fluid inlet, said first filter  
element having a first end adjacent to and encompassing said bypass device and an opposite

second end adjacent to and encompassing said second filter element with a radial distance therebetween, said second filter element having an end opposite said top end cap supported on a plate holder closing said fluid outlet except for a passage in said plate holder.

20. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 11 wherein said filter comprises:

- a filter housing having a longitudinal axis and having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet defining a flow direction therein, said fluid inlet extending laterally through said filter housing;
- a first filter element within said filter housing extending along said longitudinal axis and having a first length essentially along an entire length of said filter housing;
- a second filter element within said filter housing and said first filter element downstream of said first filter element in said flow direction having a second length not greater than one-half of said first length, said second filter element having a top end cap lying essentially in one plane extending transversely to said longitudinal axis with a top end of said fluid inlet; and
- a bypass device within said filter housing openable to allow flow in said flow direction without filtration through said first filter element, said bypass device being a bypass valve having a closing part movable between open and closed positions opening and closing a flow path from said fluid inlet to said second filter element without passing through said first filter element, respectively, and biased towards said closed position by a spring.

21. (new) A lubricating device according to claim 11 wherein said filter comprises:

a filter housing having a longitudinal axis, having a housing wall coaxial to said longitudinal axis, and having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet defining a flow direction therein, said fluid inlet extending laterally through said housing wall;

a first filter element within said filter housing extending along said longitudinal axis and having a first length essentially along an entire length of said filter housing;

a bypass device within said filter housing openable to allow flow in said flow direction without filtration through said first filter element; and

a second filter element within said filter housing and said first filter element downstream of said first filter element in said flow direction having a second length not greater than one-half of said first length, said second filter element having a top end cap lying essentially in one plane extending transversely to said longitudinal axis with a top end of said fluid inlet, said bypass device being a bypass valve having a closing part movable between open and closed positions opening and closing a flow path from said fluid inlet to said second filter element without passing through said first filter element, respectively, and biased towards said closed position by a spring.